

AP World

2015, ISSUE 3

Launching Project Uno

Q&A: Gianluca D'Aniello

A Day in the Life of Tsering Topgyal

A CRITICAL INGREDIENT

Stringers and support staff extend and enhance AP's newsgathering mission



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COVER PHOTO:

Dakar office assistant Maliki Ouedraogo displays a montage of pictures he maintains showing the dozens of colleagues he has worked with over 26 years in AP's West Africa Bureau, in Senegal, Tuesday, Aug. 2, 2011.

AP PHOTO / REBECCA BLACKWELL

FROM LEFT:

Fares Hadi, office biker, brings food to the kitchen at the AP office in Baghdad, Thursday, Nov. 5, 2015.

AP PHOTO / KHALID MOHAMMED

New Delhi photographer Tsering Topgyal.

An iPhone 6 displays the mobile version of AP News, Tuesday, July 21, 2015. AP News, the product of Project Uno, presents an easy-to-use portal combining all of AP's content offerings.

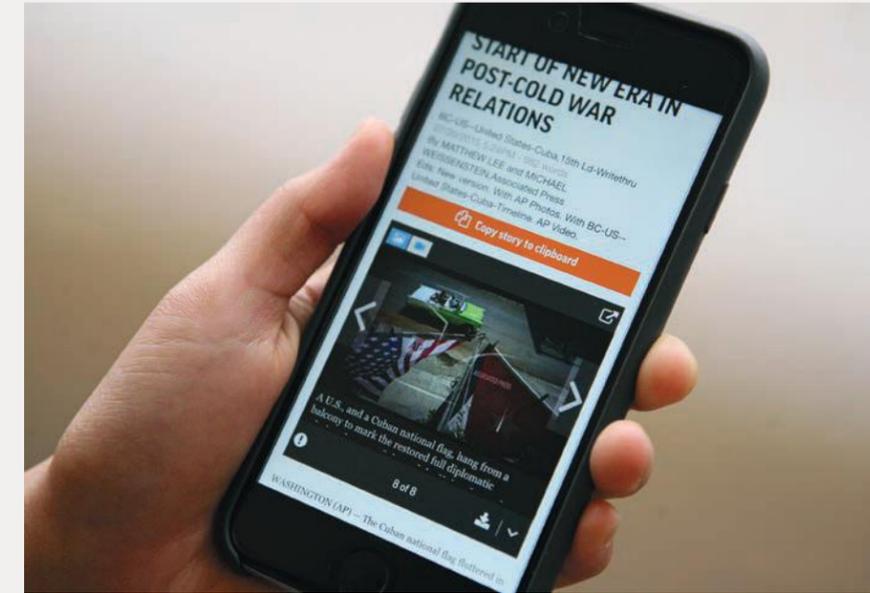
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A MESSAGE FROM GARY PRUITT



AP's news report: a valuable resource for the world

GUNMEN ENTERED THE RADISSON BLU hotel in Bamako, Mali, Friday, Nov. 20, and opened fire. Soldiers rushed to the scene as some guests fled the hotel and people nearby ran for their lives.

The assault on the luxury hotel in Mali's capital left 19 people dead. Bodies of two gunmen were recovered at the scene. Initial reports indicated there were as many as 10 gunmen with numerous hostages, both hotel guests and employees.

On the heels of the attacks in Paris, this was significant breaking news. Who was covering the story for AP? The answer is yet another example of AP's global strength as a news organization.

Stringers and support staff – from cooks and translators to security personnel and office staff – are equally as dedicated to our mission as AP journalists.

Our first reports were compiled by a network of staff — both reporters and stringers — from around the world. Photo stringer Harouna Traore was on the scene in Bamako. Stringer Baba Ahmed reported from Kaolack, Senegal, before jumping on a flight the afternoon of the attack and arriving that evening at the scene to file photos and text reports.

Stringer Robbie Corey-Boulet reported from Abidjan, Ivory Coast, while newsmen Sylvie Corbet reported from Paris and Christopher Bodeen from Beijing. Africa Editor Andrew Selsky, directing coverage of the attack from the Africa Desk in Johannesburg, edited the numerous writethrus while adding more color from photos and TV footage.

This global network of staffers began compiling AP's report about the incident, piecing together information about the attack that would ultimately be shared around the world with our customers. How many people were injured or killed? What were their nationalities? Who was responsible for the attack?

This is just one of many examples occurring every day as part of our mission to inform the world through objective and unbiased reporting, made possible in part by our global network of news staffers. But we also rely heavily on a network of support personnel to create and distribute our news reports. Stringers and support staff — from cooks and translators to security personnel and office staff — are equally as dedicated to our mission as AP journalists.

This dedication is apparent whenever I travel to various AP bureaus around the world. During my trips I am able to meet many of our talented journalists, photographers, video journalists, stringers, and administrative and support staff.

In 2015, I had the opportunity to visit several U.S. bureaus along with stops in the cities of Bangkok, Beijing, Delhi, Hong Kong, London and Mexico City. My travels also took me to Cuba, North Korea and Vietnam, among other locations.

No matter where I visit, I always find people who are absolutely committed to AP and our mission, people who are experts in their fields and enable us to produce accurate reporting. I continue to be impressed by the passion of AP people everywhere.

Because of our people and our global presence, AP's news report is unmatched — a valuable and trusted resource. **APW**

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Gary'.

Gary Pruitt
President and Chief Executive Officer



A CRITICAL INGREDIENT

Stringers and support staff extend and enhance AP's newsgathering mission

AP video journalist Mehmet Guzel, right, films as the AP team interviews men planning to cross the Aegean Sea with dinghies to the nearby Greek island of Kos, from the coastal town of Bodrum, Turkey, Tuesday, Aug. 18, 2015. Freelance translator Mohammed Rassool is center and freelance producer Neyran Elder is second from the right.

AP PHOTO / LEFTERIS PITARAKIS

By Kristi McNair, communications coordinator

WHILE AP HAS FULL-TIME STAFFERS in more than 100 countries, local help is a critical element of our coverage, particularly in regions amid strife or areas with limited communication capabilities. Every day, hundreds of stringers, translators, drivers and other local staff form the backbone of many bureaus around the world. They play a critical role in AP's newsgathering mission — whether cooking meals for our staffers in Baghdad or acting as translators in Sierra Leone.

UNSTABLE CONDITIONS AND THE THREAT of imminent danger have created a rare situation for staffers in Baghdad — they live and work together in one compound. Following the announcement she would move to Washington to be AP's deputy political editor, Vivian Salama reflects on her time as Chief of Bureau for Baghdad and the experience of working and living so closely with fellow staffers.

“There are no words for how much I adore the Baghdad staff,” says Salama. “We are together day in and day out. We don't take weekends or holidays, so we are like a big family.”

During the majority of her time in the bureau, she was the only non-Iraqi. All news staffers, as well as support staff, including security personnel, cooks and cleaners, were hired locally.

AP's corp of highly esteemed local journalists includes some of AP's most recognized and reliable bylines.

Fares Hadi Naji has been a part of the AP Baghdad family since 2003. He first assisted news photographers by driving them to bomb scenes, then riding his motor bike back to the office with fresh photos.

“We needed to get to these scenes fast, and a bomb usually shuts down traffic,” explains Naji. “With my bike, we could get there even before the police.”

While work was dangerous, Naji says he liked it and enjoyed being around AP staff. Soon after he joined, AP also hired three of his brothers, as he vouched for their trustworthiness and intelligence.

The background knowledge, talent and experience of local staffers is crucial in many parts of the world, especially so in conflict areas.

“This country passed through a brutal sectarian war, and there are still major sectarian tensions,” says Salama. “We



From left:
APTN freelancer Kabba Kargbo records an interview between West Africa Chief of Bureau Krista Larson and a former health worker in Kenema, Sierra Leone, Monday, Aug. 10, 2015.
AP PHOTO / SUNDAY ALAMBA

Ali Jaber, Baghdad chef assistant at the AP office in Baghdad, Thursday, Nov. 5, 2015.
AP PHOTO / KHALID MOHAMMED

Jamil Amiri, the cook in AP's Kabul bureau, prepares to serve lunch at the bureau, Tuesday, Nov. 3, 2015. Amiri has been with AP for 15 years.
AP PHOTO / MASSOUD HOSSAINI

Mustafa Ghalib, Baghdad office maintenance engineer, works on the electric generator at the AP office in Baghdad, Thursday, Nov. 5, 2015.
AP PHOTO / KHALID MOHAMMED

never want to appear to favor one religion or sect over another, so we choose our staff and stringers very carefully.”

While on his way to work during the Muslim feast Eid al-Adha in 2006, Naji's brother, Ahmed Hadi, was kidnapped and killed by an associate of al-Qaida, simply for having a foreign work ID. Despite tragedy and danger hitting so close to home, Naji never considered leaving AP.

“I love the people here,” says Naji. “We're treated like brothers.”

The tragic death of Hadi underscores the enormous courage and sacrifice of AP's local journalists and staff as they help AP to gather the news. In another example, in the summer of 2014, translator Ali Shehda Abu Afash was killed in Gaza with AP video journalist Simone Camilli when an unexploded Israeli shell accidentally detonated during a lull in fighting between Israeli forces and Hamas militants. The same explosion seriously wounded Gaza-based photographer Hatem Moussa.

In a war-battered city like Baghdad, going out for meals is difficult and dangerous, so employing a cooking staff is much more efficient and safe. Staffers in the Baghdad bureau eat three meals a day together, every day. Ismail Hashem Yassir has been the chef responsible for preparing these meals since 2007.

Prior to joining AP, Yassir was a chef at the Sheraton Hotel. After two bombings, the hotel never fully bounced back and business slowed down significantly. It was then that Yassir was approached by AP to fill in for 10 days while one of the chefs was sick.

Even after the chef who was sick returned to work, Yassir was asked to stay full time.

Yassir expands upon Naji's earlier mention of the danger of working for a foreign company in a region ravaged by civil war.

“When I first started, I couldn't tell anyone where I worked, not even my family,” says Yassir. “It was too dangerous. I was telling people I still worked at the Sheraton.”

Yassir never let this fear deter him in his work for AP and enjoys getting to know the various staffers who pass through the bureau.

“They eat from my hands, and here, that is a special relationship,” says Yassir. “We chefs, we're not involved in the day-to-day work, so we don't get to talk to them all day like some of the other staff. When they leave, it's sad.”

In a similar area of strife, staffers in Kabul rely on their cook, Jamil Amiri. He has been feeding those in the Kabul bureau for 15 years, cooking for about 40 staffers every day. They fill seats around his kitchen table on a rotating basis from midday until around 2 p.m., feasting on typical Afghan dishes such as Kabuli rice with carrots and raisins and boiled mutton.

Amiri's passion for cooking doesn't stop with local Afghan food; he also has a keen interest in foreign cuisines. He is thankful for a diverse group of AP staffers who have spent time in the bureau, learning from them how to cook dishes from Italy, France and other countries.

“I love cooking, but I don't like to eat too much,” says a smiling Amiri while standing in his domain on the ground floor of the AP house in central Kabul.

In Iraq, Salama notes that AP uses stringers both in Baghdad and in different parts of the country. Finding these stringers has been a challenge since the bureau opened, mostly because waves of talented professionals left during the war and because trust is a complicated issue in Iraq. Still, AP has worked to protect and retain its staff, keeping most stringers for more than 10 years.

“These are amazing, dedicated, respectful, courteous, brave and wonderful men I work with here,” says Salama. “They have been through hell and back, but they take such pride in the work they do for AP.”

AP IS ALSO HEAVILY DEPENDENT on stringers in West and Central Africa. There are approximately 60 AP contributors across both regions, one each for text, photos and video in most countries.

“During rapid news development, like coups when airports are closed, we often become reliant upon our stringers to be our eyes and ears on the ground and to do so safely,” explains West Africa Chief of Bureau Krista Larson.

In 2014, at the height of the Ebola crisis, in addition to sending in full-time staff from other parts of the world, AP also made use of local journalists like Kabba Kargbo for up-to-date and safe coverage in one of the most afflicted areas: Sierra Leone.

“Covering Ebola was not an easy thing because we all knew how serious and dangerous this killer virus was,” says Kargbo. “It was like living with the dead.”

Kargbo adds that many of his friends stopped talking to and visiting him after he began covering the outbreak, for fear he had contracted the disease. Still, he didn't let the danger deter him.

“I was afraid when I first started covering Ebola treatment centers, but I knew I needed to be courageous to focus on my job,” explains Kargbo. “I wanted the world to know what was happening out here in our country and I wanted them to know our stories.”

Stringers, Larson notes, must be accurate, discerning and well-sourced with phone numbers and contacts. Ideally, they have Internet at home and can file in English, though this is not always the case.

“The majority of our contributors often still dictate by phone or send us text messages due to problems with Internet connectivity and electricity supply in their home countries,” says Larson.

Despite challenges, AP's corps of highly esteemed local journalists includes some of AP's most recognized and reliable bylines. For instance, Clarence Roy-Macaulay in Sierra Leone has been with AP for nearly 30 years and Jonathan Paye-Layleh in Liberia has been working for AP in West Africa for more than 20 years. Both were instrumental in AP's coverage of the Ebola crisis.

“These journalists are the heart and soul of our report, helping people around the world understand these critical countries,” says Larson.

Dedication is not hard to find among Africa's support staff either. Maliki Ouedraogo recently celebrated 30 years with AP. He first joined as a cook in Ivory Coast, where AP's main West Africa bureau used to be based, and now works as the office messenger in Dakar, Senegal.

“His official title does not even begin to convey all of the many ways in which he keeps AP's West Africa operations running,” says Larson.

Larson described how Ouedraogo treats AP journalists like family, ensuring their electricity isn't cut off and their rent is paid while they are away on assignment to Iraq or Afghanistan. She also recalls him saving one staffer's pet cat from a neighborhood dog attack.

“He makes the impossible, possible,” says Larson.

“Without a doubt, AP's locally-based journalists, stringers and support staff give AP a definite competitive edge around the world,” says John Daniszewski, vice president for international news. “Their local knowledge, talent, bravery and skill, melded with the expertise and perspective of international correspondents and editors, make AP's global news report the world's very best.” **APW**



PRO- JECT UNO

Many offerings.
One platform.
One team.

By Kristi McNair, communications coordinator

LATE LAST YEAR, Director of Business Development Tom Januszewski brought several staffers to a meeting with Yahoo to showcase some of AP's content offerings, including text, photos, graphics, live videos and historical videos. To display these five types of content, a separate portal had to be used for each one.

Coincidentally, the Yahoo showcase aligned with an in-depth customer analysis AP was conducting to better understand how to improve visibility and accessibility of AP's content.

These two events presented an overwhelming need for a one portal solution, ultimately leading to what is internally referred to as Project Uno.

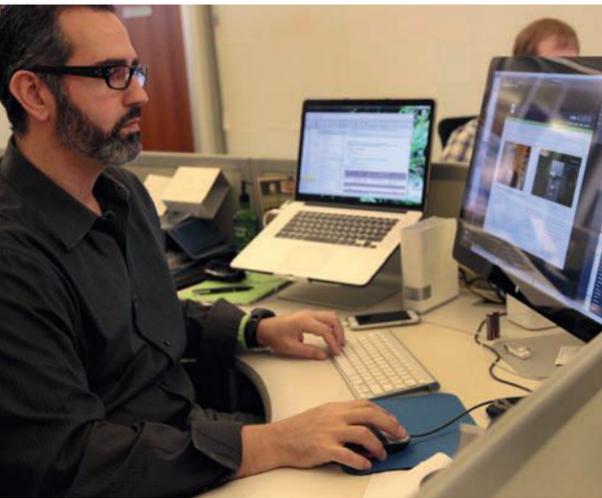
"AP News will make it much easier for them to be informed of what our global teams are doing, and it will present the very best AP has to offer."

Jim Gerberich, director of Internet platforms and business operations, and John Barrow, director of product design, have been at the forefront of planning Project Uno, which creates a unified window of content for AP customers. Tentatively called AP News, the new platform presents a visually appealing and easy-to-use site. Customers will be informed about and retrieve news stories, photos, video and other multimedia within a single portal.

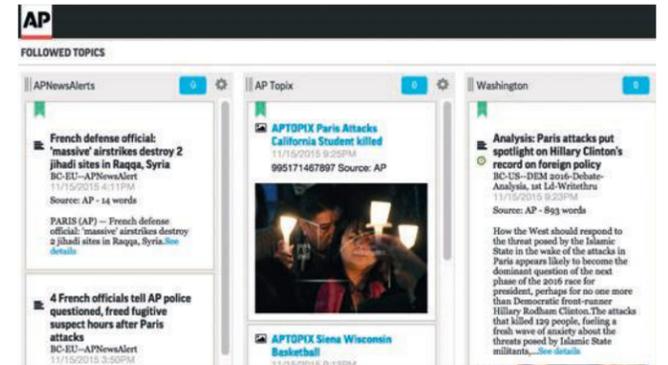
"We want to make it easy for customers to find the fantastic journalism we're doing," says Joy Jones, vice president of products, who oversees all products offered to AP members and customers. "That creates value for them and revenue for us."

Members of the Project Uno signal "one" at New York headquarters, Thursday, Oct. 29, 2015. From front left: (front row) Sneha Koka, John Barrow; (second row) Mike Pachter, Roseann Treloar, Jim Gerberich, Jennifer Gaydos; (third row) Veronika Zielinska, Karthik Josium, Doris Wiur, Linda Dorrian, Rajesh Joshi; (fourth row) Ken Romano, Igor Libman, Dawn McDonald, Yvette Reyes, Anne Gillen, Madhu Shivanna; (fifth row) Ankur Ahluwalia, Joy Jones, Matt Margolis, Senthilnathan Murugan, Senthil Chidambaram, Deepak Kumar, Dan Lasater; (sixth row) Clark Ishler, Firoz Ansari, Urvish Burman, Steve Rogouski, Yuri Metelkin.

AP CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS



AP



AP Messenger

A VITAL PIECE OF AP NEWS is the introduction of AP Messenger, a central, unified hub where users can see, organize and monitor content notifications, digests and advisories 24/7.

Project Uno's team found that AP's customers want to know the news as it happens, whether they are at their desk, in a planning meeting or in the field working. With AP Messenger, customers can quickly scan the number of new items that have populated each of the areas they're following.

Following the theme of "work anywhere, anytime and on any device," AP News is a totally responsive experience for discovering and obtaining AP's multimedia stories.

From left: John Barrow, director of product design, works on elements of Project Uno at his desk in New York headquarters, Thursday, Oct. 29, 2015.

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Shortly after video playback capabilities were fully turned on, Sneha Koka, program manager, plays video from AP News during a Project Uno status meeting, Wednesday, July 22, 2015.

PHOTO BY JIM GERBERICH

Dawn McDonald, center, director of reporting services, meets with members of the Project Uno development team – (from left) Rajesh Joshi, Yuri Metelkin, Firoz Ansari, McDonald, Urvish Burman and Senthil Chidambaram – in New York headquarters, Thursday, Oct. 29, 2015.

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A screenshot of AP Messenger.
PHOTO BY JIM GERBERICH

Over the past year and a half, a diverse team of more than 25 people across multiple departments in both Cranbury, New Jersey, and at New York headquarters has worked on Project Uno.

The team began software development in February and launched a pilot to select customers in July.

"Everyone on the team understands their mission and the challenges our customers face today," says Gerberich. "They are focused on the end goal. We practically breathe, eat and sleep Uno thanks to scheduling and planning by program managers Sneha Koka and Mike Pachter."

The foundation of AP News is built upon four core principles: one portal destination, intuitive content discovery, multimedia storycentric approach, and streamlined communication and alerts available anytime, anywhere, on any device.

CURRENTLY, U.S. CUSTOMERS usually visit AP Exchange for text, search AP Images for related photos, then slide over to Video US for possible video content. AP News creates one portal with Google-like search capabilities to present relevant results across content types.

"We want customers to see that we have a broad range of coverage and be immediately aware of the media associated with a story, and allow them to get that media easily," says Jones.

As user demographics change, customers expect simple, easy-to-use platforms suitable for their diverse needs.

"Newsrooms are contracting, with fewer specialty editors compared to five years ago, meaning reporters and

editors are often working multiformat," says Gerberich. "AP News will make it much easier for them to be informed of what our global teams are doing, and it will present the very best AP has to offer."

FROM THE BEGINNING, the team identified improving content discovery as a critical element. Veronika Zielinska, manager of metadata capabilities, and Yuri Metelkin, senior software engineer, worked to enable auto-suggest as a feature for the search function within AP News. It prompts the user with suggested topics based on search terms. This is a huge improvement from AP Exchange and other platforms, where one wrong letter or word can fail to yield results.

Also contributing to better search results is AP News' presentation of AP headlines, as opposed to the jargon-heavy approach used to title stories in AP Exchange.

Based on search results, customers may also choose to follow topics, creating a continuous stream of news and media, with a look and feel similar to TweetDeck.

PROJECT UNO SEEKS TO create a storycentric, multimedia platform that empowers customers to easily find AP content. Barrow and his team led the approach in maximizing AP News' user experience, focusing on intuitive discovery of content and bulletproof performance and security. This means anyone using the service has guaranteed access, whether in the field, using slow connections or in state-of-the-art newsrooms.

Q&A: GIANLUCA D'ANIELLO



GIANLUCA D'ANIELLO, A TECHNOLOGY INNOVATOR with extensive international media industry experience, joins The Associated Press as senior vice president and chief technology officer effective January 2016. Known as Luca by friends and colleagues, he most recently held the role of vice president of information technology at News Corp., where he defined the technology to support the company's new headquarters in New York and moved technology into a cloud computing environment.

A native Italian, D'Aniello served as chief information officer at Sky Italia, a News Corp. company, in Milan, focusing on modernizing its technology infrastructure. Prior to that he worked more than a decade with Deloitte Consulting advising global telecom, media and technology companies on technology strategy and operations.

Here, he describes how his experiences have prepared him for his role at AP, what lessons he's learned along the way and what TV programs he enjoys watching.

Welcome to The Associated Press! Why are you excited to join AP?

Thank you! It is an honor and privilege to join The Associated Press team. Besides its unparalleled editorial talent, AP is famous for its commitment to technological innovation. I'm thrilled to be given the opportunity to continue expanding that commitment into the future.

As CIO of Sky Italia and, most recently, vice president of IT at News Corp., you are familiar with the media industry. How has your past experience prepared you for the role of AP chief technology officer?

I can say that I have been exposed to the media industry, in its different expressions, for most of my life, and not only professionally. For instance, my father, who started his career as a teacher, became a writer of school textbooks and eventually opened his own publishing company.

We are witnessing one of the most pivotal points for the media industry in all its history, where the so-called digital revolution has been disrupting traditional business models, and only those organizations who commit to technological innovation will eventually survive.

At Sky Italia and News Corp., and at AP as well, technology has been permeating all functions and business processes, without exception. During my experience at previous companies, I have learned that to be effective as a technology leader one has to emerge from a traditional order-taking role and take a more proactive and supportive role. This ultimately promotes a stronger relationship with stakeholders across the business.

Changing news consumption habits and advances in technology are causing media companies, including AP, to adapt. What lessons have you learned from other organizations readjusting to cost and industry pressures that might be beneficial here?

That is profoundly true. The digital revolution has transformed the news industry into a much more dynamic and competitive environment, where there is no silver bullet to success and therefore cost containment is essential to sustain profitability.

In technology, we address this complex goal by prioritizing those investments strictly connected to the generation of value, while being extremely nimble in those areas that have become more and more commoditized. For instance, by moving enterprise applications to the cloud we can help free up financial resources for redeployment into more business-critical activities, like the development of digital products.

One of AP's strengths is our global reach. How important is an international perspective to you, both personally and professionally?

It is fundamental. Having worked for global organizations like Deloitte and News Corp., I have learned that their international success resides in the capability of their employees to embrace diversity as a value and understand that local cultures generate different needs that cannot be catered through a standardized "vanilla" approach.

I am also very fortunate to live in one of the most cosmopolitan cities in the world, New York. By being exposed to such cultural diversity, I can constantly challenge and therefore enrich what defines me not only as a professional but as a human being.

We'd like to get to know you personally a little bit. When you are not working, how do you spend your free time?

I have been living in Manhattan for almost eight years now, and this city is a magnet to me. I could never leave, and when I am away — even on a vacation — I can't wait to get back! It gives me many opportunities to enjoy my free time, even if that time may be limited. I love running in Central Park, discovering new restaurants and enjoying the unlimited supply of art and entertainment.

When I am at home, I like to cook (a passion inherited from my father), listen to my favorite music or read a book.

I must also confess that I am a big TV fan. Some of my favorite series are "Breaking Bad," "True Detective" and "Fargo," but I also love comedy shows like "Saturday Night Live," "Key & Peele" and "Orange is the New Black."

Last but not least, like most engineers, I am a die-hard science fiction lover. I grew up watching "Star Trek," but I am also a "Star Wars" fan; I can't wait to watch "The Force Awakens." **APW**

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF TSERING TOPGYAL

Meet an AP photographer in New Delhi



Delhi photographer Tsering Topgyal stands on the steps of Agrasen ki Baoli, a historical 60-meter-long step well in New Delhi, India.

PHOTO BY ZHAZO MIACHIEO

TSERING TOPGYAL, A PHOTOGRAPHER based in New Delhi, began working with AP in 2011 as an intern. He later worked as a stringer until becoming a full-time staffer in April 2014. During the past year, Topgyal has covered a variety of events, including India's national election, the Hindu festival Kumbh Mela and Kalachakra initiations by the Dalai Lama. He also highlighted Tibetan refugees living in India as a part of a special photo project. Today, we follow him as he photographs Muslims praying at three locations in Delhi during Eid al-Adha, or the Feast of the Sacrifice, a festival occurring at the end of the annual Islamic pilgrimage to Mecca.

Friday, Sept. 25, 2015

6 a.m. Topgyal wakes up and immediately checks his phone for emails. In the bathroom, he discovers there is no running water, so he pours drinking water into a bucket and uses it to get ready for the day.

6:30 a.m. He hops into a cab to head to Jama Masjid, one of the largest mosques in India. On the way, he receives a message from Chief Photographer for South Asia Bernat Armangue, who asks Topgyal to take photos inside of Jama Masjid while Armangue takes photos outside.

7 a.m. Topgyal's cab drops him off near Jama Masjid. While walking toward the mosque, he photographs devotees in their white attire headed in the same direction.

7:30 a.m. Eid prayer, the special prayer offered during Eid al-Adha, begins. Topgyal is awestruck by the sheer number of people who have come to Jama Masjid to pray. The mosque appears to be completely full of devotees spread as far as the eye can see.

8 a.m. Topgyal leaves Jama Masjid and takes a cycle rickshaw about 2 kilometers to Fatehpuri Masjid, a mosque located at the western end of the oldest street in Delhi. Once there, he asks the imam's wife for permission to photograph namaz, or prayer, from their roof.

8:30 a.m. Namaz begins. While taking photos, he receives a call from Armangue, who asks him to head to the Feroz Shah Kotla fortress afterwards. Topgyal waits for devotees to clear the street they were praying on before departing via auto rickshaw for his next location, 4 kilometers away.

9:15 a.m. Upon reaching the picturesque 14th-century ruins of Feroz Shah Kotla, Topgyal buys a bottle of water and shares it with other photographers present, taking a short break to chat with them. He then hunts for a spot to shoot from before finding a prime location just as prayers begin.

10:30 a.m. As prayers end at Feroz Shah Kotla, more begin not far away. He heads toward this location only to find a much less inspiring setting; it's extremely hot and lighting is not good, yet Topgyal sticks around, hoping to capture a few great shots. Some local kids pester him to take their pictures, and Topgyal, not able to take the type of photos he'd hoped for, gives in to entertaining the kids for a while. Afterwards, he returns to the prayer gathering to take pictures. He is especially mindful of maintaining a proper distance from the devotees, so as not to interrupt or distract them.

11 a.m. Topgyal takes an auto rickshaw back to the office to edit and file his pictures from the day.

12 p.m. He eats lunch while alternating between browsing major photo galleries online and calling contacts for updates on events around the city.

1:30 p.m. He continues his research of photo galleries and reviews photos taken around the region.

2 p.m. Topgyal edits more photos from earlier in the day and continues to file them.

4:30 p.m. He leaves the office and takes the metro home where he enjoys dinner with friends.

12 a.m. Topgyal checks his phone for emails and notifications one last time before going to bed. **APW**

What job / role would you like to see spotlighted?
Email apworld@ap.org

REGION SPOTLIGHT: WEST DESK

Bolstering our news report with UGC



Top:
AP staffers of the West Desk and Phoenix bureau at the AP office Friday, Oct. 23, 2015. First row from left: Phoenix Reporter Terry Tang; West Desk Editor Courtney Bonnell; West Desk Editor Danny Pollock; West Desk Editor Alina Hartounian; West Editor Traci Carl; Shared News Desk News Associate Kelly Catalfamo. Second row, from left: Phoenix Breaking News Reporter Walt Berry; Shared News Desk News Associate Emily Overholt; Phoenix Reporter Jacques Billeaud; Phoenix Breaking News Reporter Paul Davenport; West Broadcast Editor Chris Havlik; West Interim Assistant Editor Katie Oyan; West Photo Editor Tom Stathis; West Deputy Editor Anna Johnson. Third row (in back), from left: Arizona Statehouse Reporter Bob Christie; West Enterprise Editor Raghu Vadarevu; Southwest News Editor Josh Hoffner; West Video Producer Steve Fluty; West Technician David Redfearn; West Technician David Beard; West Desk Editor Mona Lisa Malone.
AP PHOTO / ROSS D. FRANKLIN

Bottom row from left:
A house burns to the ground as lava flows around it near the town of Pahoa on the Big Island of Hawaii, Tuesday, Oct. 28, 2014.
AP PHOTO / PETE STACHOWICZ, PARADISE HELICOPTERS
A firefighting plane drops retardant over a fire in Owyhee County, Idaho, Sunday, Aug. 9, 2015
PHOTO BY ELI PETERSON

By Alina Hartounian, West Desk editor

THE WEST'S WIDE-OPEN SPACES leave a lot of territory to cover. In the vast expanse of the 13 states covered by the West Desk — which spread across roughly half of the U.S. — news can break hundreds of miles from the closest AP office. Last year, the West and Central regions launched a test to move user-generated content gathering out to the regional desks, with the goal of augmenting our photo and visual reports. This move also resulted in the addition of UGC coordinators in each domestic region. In the West, UGC content is indispensable, helping us fill in gaps and provide a fuller story.

Here are four uniquely West stories we were able to better tell by reporting through social media:

A TINDER DRY AND BLAZING HOT landscape erupted into unprecedented infernos in the West. While we can be aggressive in getting our reporters on the ground to these remote pockets of the country, some stories can only be told with the help of social media.

Firefighters themselves became the story when we noticed their jaw-dropping snaps of the flames on Instagram and Facebook. Photos of hikers being evacuated, school kids being led off their smoky playground and a loyal dog standing guard over a fallen fawn in wildfire-scarred Idaho are moments that would have been lost had it not been for our efforts in UGC.

A LOT OF EMERGENCY LANDINGS HAPPEN in our region. Passengers armed with cellphones can give us a glimpse of a smoke-filled cabin, burning engine or even the miracle of birth in midair.

UGC from Las Vegas showing passengers evacuating down emergency slides while toting their carry-ons got the Internet's meme machine churning. The West's reporters addressed the postings in a sidebar brimming with context from safety experts and quotes from passengers who were there.

THE ONLY THING BETTER THAN an animal story is an animal story with photos and video. UGC helps us tell tales of orca encounters, wayward bears and even pesky mosquitoes running rampant in Phoenix.

Some of these stories wouldn't be told — like a sea lion hitching a ride on a kayak — if it weren't for the video we were able to share.

THE WEST DESK AND PHOENIX BUREAU MIX

AP's office in Phoenix includes a unique combination of West Desk staffers, Phoenix bureau reporters and administrative personnel. The West Desk covers 13 states, a vast region that has experienced everything from volcanic eruptions in Hawaii to llamas on the lam in Arizona.

- 25 West Desk staffers
- 11 Phoenix bureau staffers
- 5 Various AP staffers
- 4 Technology staffers
- 3 Bobs (Desk editor Bob Seavey, reporter Bob Christie, sports writer Bob Baum)

West editor: TRACI CARL
Deputy West editor: ANNA JOHNSON
Assistant editor: ANNA JO BRATTON
Assistant enterprise editor: RAGHU VADAREVU
Southwest news editor: JOSH HOFFNER
Assistant sports editor: ED MONTES
Broadcast editor: CHRIS HAVLIK
Photo editor: TOM STATHIS
Tech services manager: TOM GABAUER

AS LAVA MADE ITS LONG, destructive crawl across Hawaii's Big Island, our reporters searched for fresh ways to tell the story. That opportunity came in an Instagram post showing a single headstone, still standing despite the hardened lava surrounding it.

The family who owned the plot believed the tombstone had been destroyed until a scientist documenting the lava's progress shared the photo with them. They shared that photo on Instagram and the story with our reporter. **APW**



NEWS! Change of Address:

*Beginning December 17, 1938,
the new address will be*

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

50 ROCKEFELLER PLAZA

NEW YORK · N · Y ·

TELEPHONE: CIRCLE 6-4111

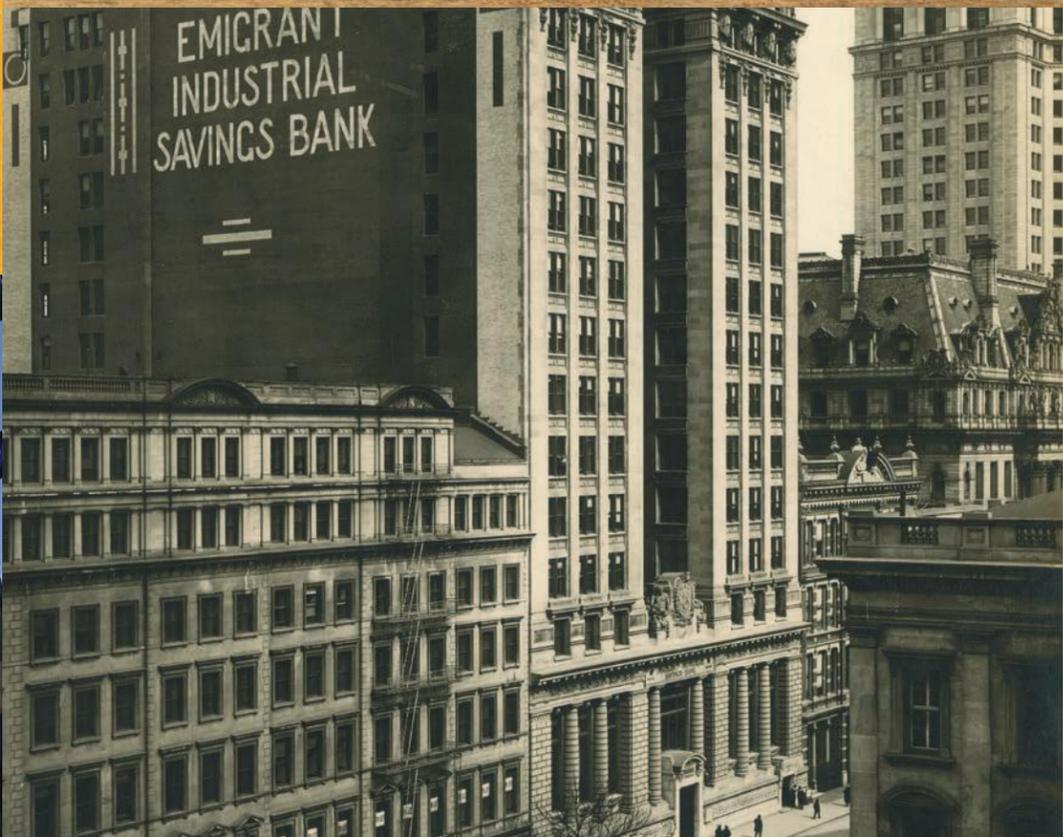
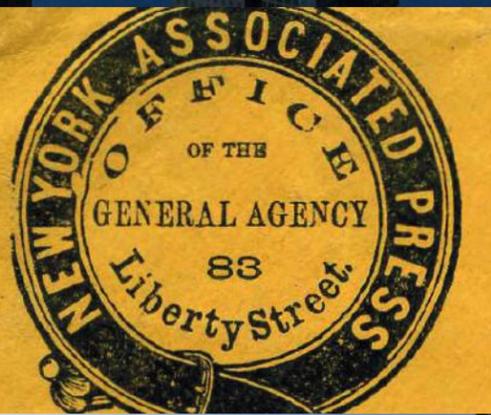


The Associated Press Building

(Please Preserve This Card For Your Records.)

BACK TO THE FUTURE

AP headquarters to return downtown



By Valerie S. Komor, director of AP Corporate Archives

IN AUGUST, AP ANNOUNCED it will move its corporate headquarters from the west side of midtown Manhattan to 200 Liberty St., part of the downtown Brookfield Place retail and office complex across West Street from the World Trade Center. The move, planned for early 2017, will take AP back to the future. It occupied various downtown buildings for 79 years before moving to its first midtown location on Madison Avenue in 1925.

As the center of commercial and maritime activity, lower Manhattan became home to numerous newspapers and printing houses during the early 19th century. When Moses Yale Beach organized The Associated Press in 1846 as a way to share the costs of covering the Mexican War, he did so from the Sun's offices on the corner of Nassau and Fulton streets.

AP first established itself “in the modest apartments at the corner of Broadway and Liberty streets, up seventy-eight stairs.” This was 83 Liberty St., AP’s headquarters through the mid-1880s.

According to journalist William Alpin, writing in 1870 for Putnam’s Monthly Magazine, AP first established itself “in the modest apartments at the corner of Broadway and Liberty streets, up seventy-eight stairs.” This was 83 Liberty St., AP’s headquarters through the mid-1880s.

When AP of Illinois departed Chicago and incorporated under New York State law in May of 1900, it settled into a French Renaissance-style palace at 195 Broadway under the leadership of Melville E. Stone, the founder and former editor of the Chicago Daily News. AP remained there until 1914, when it moved to the Emigrant Industrial Savings Bank Building at 51 Chambers St. between Broadway and Centre streets. Designed by Raymond F. Almirall in the Beaux-Arts style, the structure was the first skyscraper to use the “H” layout, which offered greater light exposure. The lease of 13,250 square feet allowed Stone to organize operations under news, finance and traffic.

In March 1924, Kent Cooper, assistant general manager for traffic, led the move to 383 Madison Ave. to what was known as the hotel district. By then, telephones, teletypes and pneumatic tubes had eliminated the need for proximity to the newspapers downtown on Park Row.

As membership grew, it proved more important to be accessible to member publishers near Grand Central Terminal, Penn Station and numerous hotels.

In 1938, AP moved to 50 Rockefeller Plaza, where it remained for 66 years until it could no longer afford rising rents. In 2004, AP moved to its current home, 290,000 square feet of space on three floors at 450 W. 33rd St. Architects designed an open floor plan so for the first time since leaving Madison Avenue, news staff occupied a single floor.

In less than a decade, the landscape of AP’s current neighborhood has changed dramatically. The last vestiges of 19th century brick have given way to soaring glass. Luxury retail stores are rising on platforms erected over the Hudson rail yards. The elevated High Line park, itself a former railroad freight line, attracts visitors from around the world. On 14th Street, a new Whitney Museum of American Art stands where meatpackers toiled until just 15 years ago.

When AP returns downtown, it will move into a 40-story César Pelli building dating from 1985, standing a short distance west of the company’s original Broadway starting point. **APW**

Clockwise from top left:

One of the two pools at the September 11 Memorial in New York reflect the office building at 200 Liberty St., Wednesday, Aug. 26, 2015.

AP PHOTO / MARK LENNIHAN

A change-of-address card used when AP moved to 50 Rockefeller Plaza in 1938. AP remained there until its move to 450 W. 33rd St. in 2004.

AP CORPORATE ARCHIVES

A lithograph shows Broadway north of Trinity Church, left, with AP headquarters at 83 Liberty St. the third building from the right, at the northwest corner of Broadway and Liberty.

COURTESY THE NEW-YORK HISTORICAL SOCIETY

AP’s headquarters from 1914–1924 on the second floor of 51 Chambers St., the Emigrant Industrial Savings Bank Building.

COURTESY THE NEW-YORK HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The building at 450 W. 33rd St., New York, in summer 2004 just before AP moved its headquarters to the 14th–16th floors.

PHOTO BY ED BAILEY

Detail of a business envelope, showing the Associated Press General Agency address at 83 Liberty, circa 1870.

COURTESY LEE JONES, AUSTIN, TX

YEARS OF SERVICE



Barry Bedlan, deputy director of sports products, marked 20 years with AP in Dallas, Sept. 18, 2015.



Harry Dunphy, newsperson, celebrated 50 years with AP in Washington, Sept. 22, 2015.



Sally Jacobsen, deputy managing editor of projects and executive director of the Associated Press Media Editors association, retired from AP after a 39-year career, Oct. 30, 2015.



Michael Mazzo, senior technician, marked 35 years with AP, Nov. 2, 2015, in Washington.



Nancy Benac, White House reporter, celebrated 35 years with AP in Washington, June 22, 2015.



Jack Elliott, desk supervisor in Jackson, Mississippi, retired after 31 years with AP, Sept. 6, 2015.



Danny Johnston, Little Rock, Arkansas, photographer, retired after 30 years with AP, Aug. 31, 2015.



Mark Olchowy, deputy director of support, celebrated 35 years with AP, Nov. 2, 2015, in Washington.



Walt Berry, Phoenix night breaking news staffer, celebrated 35 years with AP, Sept. 16, 2015.



George Garties, local markets director for Illinois, Indiana and Wisconsin, marked 30 years with AP in the Chicago bureau, Oct. 7, 2015.



Kim Johnson, Dallas-based news editor, photos, celebrated 15 years of service with AP, July 22, 2015, in Dallas.



Osvaldo Salinas, technology manager, retired after 42 years with AP in Buenos Aires, Oct. 1, 2015.



Toshinori Daikoku, technology technician, celebrated 15 years with AP in Tokyo, Wednesday, Nov. 4, 2015.



Terry Hunt, Washington deputy chief of bureau, celebrated 45 years with AP, Aug. 31, 2015.



Yuri Kageyama, Tokyo business writer, marked 25 years with AP in Tokyo, Oct. 16, 2015.



Melinda Purce, administrative assistant, marked 25 years with AP in Washington, July 9, 2015.



Stella Dixon, head of HR operations in London, celebrated her 10th anniversary with AP in London, Sept. 14, 2015.



Diana Ingram, regional customer support manager, celebrated 20 years with AP, Oct. 21, 2015, in London.



Eric Klimek, technology specialist, celebrated his 30th anniversary with AP, Sept. 18, 2015, in Washington.



Sylvia Wingfield, breaking news staffer in Boston, retired from AP after a 42-year career, Sept. 30, 2015.

Please note: AP World includes a selection of photos of staff celebrating milestone anniversaries with the AP. As always, Corporate Communications will publish all submitted anniversary photos in Around the AP World on InsideAP

AROUND THE AP WORLD



Top row from left:

HOUSTON

Video journalist John Mone shoots video for a story about an unusual plastic surgery to save a man's badly burned hand, Thursday, Aug. 27, 2015 at the Houston Methodist Hospital.

AP PHOTO / PAT SULLIVAN

WASHINGTON

Washington reporter Mary Clare Jalonick pursues Rep. Paul Ryan, R-WI, on Capitol Hill, Wednesday, Oct. 28, 2015. Ryan had just left a GOP Speaker of the House candidate forum. The next day, he was elected Speaker of the House in a rare, live roll-call vote on the House floor.

AP PHOTO / CAROLYN KASTER

NASHVILLE

Pro Football Writer Teresa M. Walker stands with Al Cecere, president of the American Eagle Foundation, with the eagle Challenger, Sunday, Oct. 25, 2015, after the eagle's pregame flight rehearsal before kickoff between the Atlanta Falcons and Tennessee Titans at LP Field.

PHOTO BY JULIA CECERE OF THE AMERICAN EAGLE FOUNDATION

NEW YORK

AP Corporate Archives Director Valerie Komor discusses AP's historical collections during a visit of Columbia University undergraduate history majors to the corporate archives at New York headquarters, Wednesday, Nov 4, 2015.

AP CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS

Bottom row from left:

BEIRUT, LEBANON

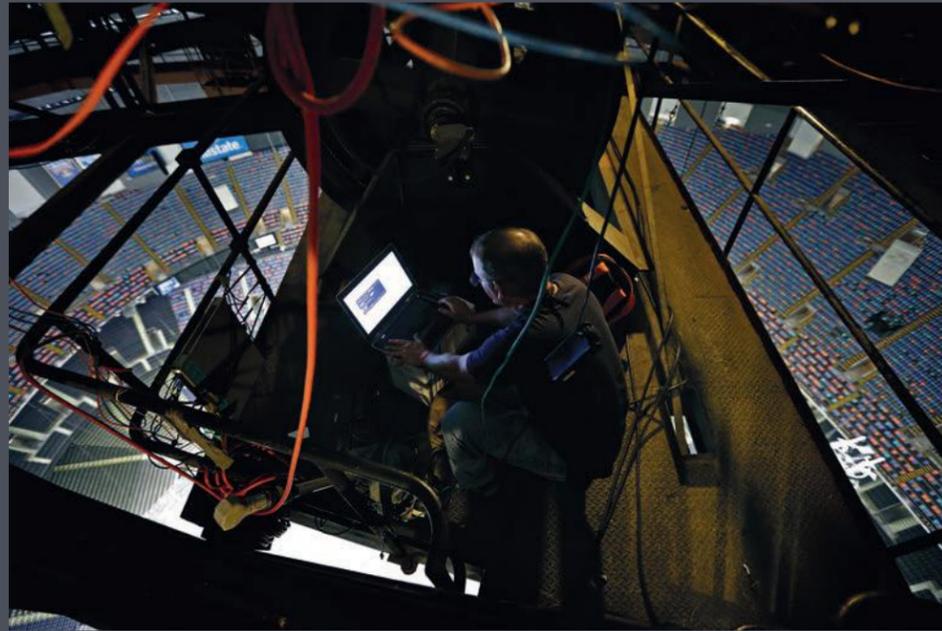
Photographer Hassan Ammar edits photos after an anti-government protest, Saturday, Aug. 29, 2015.

AP PHOTO / HUSSEIN MALLA

HORGOS, SERBIA

Video journalist Eldar Emric photographs migrants walking along train tracks near a Serbian border town, Friday, Aug. 28, 2015.

AP PHOTO / DARKO VOJINOVIC



Top row from left:
YANGON, MYANMAR
Yangon staffer Robin McDowell reacts as she has her palm read by fortune teller Saan Aung on the eve of the country's general elections, Saturday, Nov. 7, 2015.
AP PHOTO / MARK BAKER

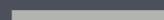
SANTIAGO, CHILE
Correspondent Luis Andres Henao interviews Ana Gonzalez, whose husband, two sons and daughter-in-law were forcibly "disappeared" during Chile's 1973-1990 military dictatorship. Gonzalez was attending a tribute in the Chilean capital for a young photographer who was burned to death in 1986 by soldiers during an anti-dictatorship protest.
PHOTO BY PETER PRENGAMAN

NEW ORLEANS
Senior Technology Specialist Tom Driscoll sets up a wireless photo system on the catwalk in the ceiling of the Mercedes-Benz Superdome in preparation for NFL season, Friday, Aug. 21, 2015.
AP PHOTO / GERALD HERBERT

LANDOVER, MARYLAND
Washington-based photographer Alex Brandon, bottom left, photographs Washington Redskins wide receiver DeSean Jackson in a tunnel before an NFL football game against the Miami Dolphins, Sunday, Sept. 13, 2015.
AP PHOTO / PATRICK SEMANSKY

Bottom row from left:
WELCH, WEST VIRGINIA
Atlanta-based photographer David Goldman on assignment surrounded by bedrock in the small space of a coal mine, Tuesday, Oct. 6, 2015.
AP PHOTO

RAMADI, IRAQ
Baghdad photographer Hadi Mizban covers clashes between Iraqi security forces and the Islamic State group.
PHOTO BY FARIS MOHAMMED



Top row from left:
CINCINNATI

Former AP presidents and chairmen pose with current AP President and CEO Gary Pruitt during a luncheon, Thursday, Nov. 19, 2015. Front row, from left, retired board chairmen Dean Singleton and Don Newhouse, and retired AP President and CEO Lou Boccardi. Back row, from left, retired AP President and CEO Tom Curley, Pruitt, and retired chairmen Bill Keating and Frank Daniels.

AP PHOTO / JOHN MINCHILLO

HUNGARY-SERBIA BORDER

AP's cross-format team – from left: photographer Marko Drobnjakovic, correspondent Dusan Stojanovic, video journalist Ivana Bzganovic and photographer Darko Vojinovic – based in Belgrade, Serbia, stand in front of barbed wire, Tuesday, August 11, 2015.

AP PHOTO / MARKO DROBNJAKOVIC

SEATTLE

Photographer Elaine Thompson checks her phone while aboard a small U.S. Coast Guard boat passing downtown Seattle, Tuesday, Nov. 10, 2015. The boat was on its way to meet the returning U.S. Coast Guard polar icebreaker, Healy.

PHOTO COURTESY OF RACHEL ANNE SEYMOUR

PHILADELPHIA

Newsperson Kathy Matheson films a Lego representation of St. Peter's Basilica and Square, at The Franklin Institute, Friday, Sept. 11, 2015. The Rev. Bob Simon spent about 10 months building it with approximately half a million Legos.

AP PHOTO / MATT ROURKE

Bottom row from left:

BEIRUT

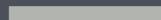
Beirut photographer Bilal Hussein is treated by a Red Cross worker after being struck by a stone during anti-government protests, Thursday, Oct. 8, 2015.

PHOTO BY HASSAN SHAAABAN

NEW ORLEANS

Deep South correspondent Rebecca Santana, left, and multimedia reporter Stacey Plaisance interview Rick Blount, proprietor of famed New Orleans restaurant Antoine's, for the restaurant's upcoming 175-year anniversary, Friday, Sept. 11, 2015.

AP PHOTO / GERALD HERBERT



Top row from left:
YEMEN

Gulf News Director Adam Schreck, right, aboard a United Arab Emirates military helicopter, Monday, Sept. 14, 2015.
PHOTO BY MAEVA BAMBUCK

ISTANBUL

Beirut Chief Photographer Hussein Malla, top center, climbs out of a window of a polling station as he and other members of the media await the departure of Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan after he voted, Sunday, Nov. 1, 2015.
PHOTO BY TANER YENER / DHA VIA AP

DELACROIX, LOUISIANA

New Orleans reporter Cain Burdeau takes notes while interviewing Rocky Morales and Suzanne Guidroz on their shrimp boat, Wednesday, Aug. 5, 2015. Burdeau was reporting on the upcoming 10th anniversary of Hurricane Katrina.
AP PHOTO / GERALD HERBERT

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Boston photographer Charles Krupa, left, and videographer Rodrique Ngowi snuggle into the loft of a tiny house while working on a story about the tiny house structural phenomenon, Tuesday, Oct. 20, 2015.
AP PHOTO / COLLIN BINKLEY

Bottom Row from left:

HORNI JIRETIN, CZECH REPUBLIC

Newsperson Karel Janicek, left, assists video journalist Adam Pemble during filming of a giant coal mine using a drone, Friday, Nov. 6, 2015.

AP PHOTO / PETR DAVID JOSEK

VISALIA, CALIFORNIA

Video journalist Haven Daley stands in Sequoia National Park, Friday, Sept. 11, 2015, while covering the impact of California's drought on the giant sequoia trees.

AP PHOTO / RICH PEDRONCELLI

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BACK STORY



SOUNION, GREECE

Elena Becatoros, chief of bureau for Southeast Europe, takes notes during a dress rehearsal of an underwater dance-visual performance by The Underwater Heart of the Mediterranean, Thursday, Sept. 24, 2015.

AP PHOTO / NIKOS CHALKIPOULOS